

## CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY - DESIGNATED CRITICAL HABITATS

### **AMERICAN BURYING BEETLE** - *Nicrophorus americanus* (Oliver)

Status: Endangered in Kansas

Endangered Nationally

Currently, the following areas are designated critical for American burying beetle:

All suitable habitat within Chautauqua County. American burying beetles have been frequently found in upland grasslands or near the edge of grassland/forest. Sandy/clay loam soils and food (carrion) availability are also important. The species appears to prefer loose soil in which carrion can be easily buried.

### **EASTERN SPOTTED SKUNK** - *Spilogale putorius interrupta* (Rafinesque)

Status: Threatened in Kansas

Currently, the following areas are designated critical for Eastern spotted skunks:

All suitable habitat within Chautauqua County. Spotted skunks seem to prefer forest edges and upland prairie grasslands, especially where rock outcrops and shrub clumps are present. In western counties, it relies heavily on riparian corridors where woody shrubs and woodland edges are present. Woody fencerows, odd areas, and abandoned farm buildings are also important habitat.

### **OUACHITA KIDNEYSHELL MUSSEL** - *Ptychobranhus occidentalis* (Conrad, 1836)

Status: Threatened in Kansas

Currently, the following areas are designated critical for Ouachita kidneyshell mussels:

The main stem of the Caney River from the Elk/Chautauqua border (Sec. 6-T32S-R9E) to the Kansas/Oklahoma border (Sec. 16-T35S-R10E).